

## THE CODE AMONG SOLDIERS.

## RECORDS OF FAMOUS ENCOUNTERS.

DUELING DAYS IN THE ARMY. By WILLIAM DOUGLAS. 12mo. pp. 280. Scribner &amp; Welford.

The author of this book, formerly an officer in the late 10th Royal Hussars, has not attempted to emulate the examples of Steinmetz and Millinger, but has merely brought together a number of stories of duelling, not even taking care to arrange them chronologically. He says "Duelling in the Army," refers to the English Army, but the records embrace many encounters, the principals in which were not military men. With a better arrangement and a good deal more industry the author might have made a valuable contribution to the history of duelling. His methods are so desultory, however, that his work is really little more than a collection of anecdotes, some of which appear to rest upon authentic documents, while others are scarcely distinguishable from fiction and perhaps ought to be classed with it. Nevertheless enough is put on record to illustrate the extent to which the practice of the code was abused before it became extinct, and nothing is more remarkable than the average puerility of the provocations which led men, often of eminence, to "go out" with one another. There is one interesting and significant fact brought forward by Mr. Douglas, moreover, and it tends to show how abuses often evolve their own remedies. Toward the close of the duelling period it came to be remarked that a large proportion of these meetings were harmless, although frequently the principals exchanged several shots. The fact is that about this time it became understood that the seconds should do all in their power to avert the loss of life, and they performed their duty by loading the pistols so lightly that sometimes the bullets when hitting their mark, only produced bruises. Thus five or six shots might be exchanged without any harm done, and thus also the practice of duelling was gradually brought into contempt.

The kind of men who fought were naturally hard and high-livers. Mr. Douglas gives the following grisly story of the Duke of Richmond, a famous six-bottle man. It illustrates the manners of the period in more than one way, and the conclusion is a delightful commentary on the dispensation of ecclesiastical benefits at the time:

Or the Duke of Richmond's abilities in that respect (drinking), it is related that he was the only man who sat out the orgies so prevalent at the Castle, that is, he saw all his staff and gentlemen guests under the table. It was the custom in those days to get drunk, though apparently the Colonel Lennox who shot away the Duke of York's curl, and the subsequent Irish victory did not get drunk though he drank deep. Possibly it was this gift which endeared him so much to the inhabitants of Athlone when with his regiment, the 35th, he exchanged from the Guards, in 1786 he was stationed at the fortress of the Modern Athens. His abilities as a six-bottle man gained him great respect in the then existing state of society in Edinburgh.

When Vicerey of Ireland the following tale is told of him. Being on a visit to a friend in the west of the Emerald Isle, he felt annoyed at the noise, was then filled, but by the representative of the same house, was then filled, but by the representative of the church took off his hand he fell helpless on the floor leaving King George the Third's name, master of the master of the school.

The following day the Duke made the curate a dean, and when it was said at the time had he proved the victor in the drinking duel, the vicerey would have made him a bishop.

"This is very slow work, your grace; let us have a bumper of brandy."

Two large classes were at once filled with cocaine and emptied. A fresh bumper to each of the same house, was then filled, but by the representative of the church took off his hand he fell helpless on the floor leaving King George the Third's name, master of the master of the school.

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Here is another story of a clercyman who was also a journalist and evidently his own "fighting editor," namely, the Reverend Mr. Bates:

As already mentioned, he was editor and proprietor of "The Morning Post," in which paper he appeared early in 1777 several letters reflecting upon the character of a lady of position. Captain Stoney, a celebrated buck of that day, was an admirer of the lady in question, and, on her part, requested Mr. Bates to give up the name of the writer of the letters referred to him and on the refusal of the latter to do so, the former thought fit to challenge him, with an unusual severity that there were no so severe consequences as were therefore arranged between the representatives of the Church and the Army, or, as we might put it, "gown and sword." They met in a room and locking the door took up their positions. Having discharged their pistols without effect, they threw them on the ground and drawing their swords, attacked each other most resolutely, the result being that Mr. Bates was wounded in the thigh and Captain Stoney in the arm and breast. By this time the people were hammering at the door of the room trying to open it, the gentlemen were too intent on their work to attend, and the conclusion would have been fatal to one or both had not a remark, the death of one or both parties might have ensued. On the Saturday following Captain Stoney recovered the lady whom he had thus defended at the hazard of his life.

After the entry of the Allies to Paris, when Napoleon had fallen, the old officers of the French Army were naturally in a state of deep exasperation, and the more vindictive among them lost no opportunity of provoking duels with the conquerors, their rancor being exhibited in an especially manner against the English. As the latter usually had less skill with the pistol and small sword than the Frenchmen, several fatal duels occurred. On one occasion however a French officer who was a professed duelist, and who had already earned notoriety by "avenging his country" upon perfidious Alibion on the field of honor, received a check which is said to have rended the pursuit of duels with Englishmen much less popular. The story has been told by Lever, but as Mr. Douglas gives the name of the hero it is worth while to give his version:

There was a Frenchman who boasted of having killed a dozen of English officers and promised to go on in this work. One evening he swaggered as usual into his chateau, to his astonishment, actually saw one of those hated "Anglais" occupying his chair; he is, it is remembered, that no one hitherto had dared to sit upon exact himself. Mastering his passion he undid his sword-hilt and, having placed his sword on one side, began to insult the perfectly inoffensive English officer who so unconscious-looking in his (Frenchman's) chair. He trod upon the English toes, he deprived the Englishman of his stockings, without at all being able to move the least apparently, to disturb the other's composure. At last he snatched the Briton slowly rose up, displaying to the astonished eyes of the Gaul a guardsman some six feet six inches high. The giant, bending across the table, seized hold of the Frenchman's nose with one hand and his chin with the other, and wrenching his mouth open, spat down his throat. With a howl the Englishman held his breath. To the above named defendant: You are hereby summoned to appear before me on the 21st, next, one o'clock, at my office, to answer for the damages you will be liable to inflict upon our regular prices.

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Legal Notices.

SUPREME COURT, CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK.—John D. Hotchkiss, Plaintiff Attorney, and Post Office address, No. 32 Nassau-st. To July 10, 1887, one year daily. To the Clerk of the Court, the plaintiff's attorney within twenty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, and in case of any difficulty to appear, or answer judgment, to appear at the court at 10 o'clock, A. M., at the office of the Clerk of the Court, in the City of New York.

HENRY D. HOTCHKISS, Plaintiff's Attorney, 32 Nassau-st., New York.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS of the NORTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY, for the purpose of electing Directors and Inspectors of Railroads.

Notice is hereby given that the second instalment of 25 PER CENT. of the contribution required upon the stock of the Northern Railroad Company, to be paid to the Plan of Reconstruction of the above companies is hereby called, and will be payable

July 10, 1887.

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